exchange earned by these multinationals since liberalisation; and

(f) what is the profit margin of these multinationals in food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) Investment by foreign companies operating internationally helps in bringing additional investment in the food processing sector, bring in attendant benefits of technology and managerial expertise, helps generation of employment, helps accessing foreign market and increases export as well as brings in competition for the benefits of common man. Since liberalisation in July 1991, approval has been accorded to many foreign companies, NRIs, etc. for investment in the deep sea fishing and food processing sectors. Total foreign equity investment in these projects are over Rs. 2000 crores.

(c) No report of declining production of processed food products due to the operation of companies with foreign equity has been received in this Ministry.

(d) Most of these approvals are in various stages of implementation.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

(f) Information on profit margin in respect of food processing units is not maintained.

Setting up two big Orange Processing Units

7707. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted the announcement of the Government of Maharashtra for setting up two big Orange Processing Units one each in Nagpur and Amravati Districts;

(b) whether Government of Maharashtra approached the Central Government for any assistance for the setting up of these units;

(c) whether there is any scheme for assistance to such units and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would give assistance to the Maharashtra Government for these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) No proposal seeking for setting up of orange processing units has been received from Government of Maharashtra. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Plan Scheme under which assistance is provided to public sector/joint sector/ cooperative sector units etc., for establishment or upgradation of fruits & vegetable processing facilities including orange processing. Such assistance upto 50% of capital cost (60% in industrially backward districts and 75% in ITDP districts, North-Eastern and Hill States) can be extended depending upon the economic viability of the project, pioneering nature of the project, technology, etc. as well as the availability of funds.

Delicencing Beer

7708. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to delicence beer;

(b) how many applications are still pending; and

(c) by when the final decision is expected in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 87 (Eighty seven) applications were